

30.vi. — 2.vii.86, life history not previously known in Britain.

Kynance Cove (1) 24.vii.86 — RJH

P. galactodactyla ([D. & S.]) — Lincs. (54) C. C. Penney, *Ent. Rec.* 99: 182

Leioptilus carphodactyla (Hb.) — Chinnor Hill (23) pupa on *Inula conyza*, em. 29.ix.86 — MFVC

ATHETA SYLVICOLA KRAATZ (COL.: STAPHYLINIDAE)
FROM TWO SITES IN SCOTLAND. — I swept a female of this species from grass in a marshy spot near Grudie, E. Ross on 3.vi.82 and captured a male from under a small stone on a shingle bank of the river Druie near the village of Inverdruie, Easternness on 30.ix.85.

This species appears to be rare in Britain. It was introduced to the British list, under the name *Oxypoda planipennis* Thoms, by Ashe (1955, *Entomologist's mon. Mag.* 91 248), who found a single example in a heap of garden refuse at Nethy Bridge, Easternness but I have found no other published record for it. My friend Mr. A. A. Allen tells me, however, that the late Philip Harwood took specimens in Speyside.

After Ashe had published his note, the beetle was transferred from the genus *Oxypoda* to the genus *Atheta* (subgenus *Acrotona*). In addition, the specific name *planipennis* was shown to be invalid and the name *sylvicola* Kraatz adopted. The specific name *silvicola* Kraatz has also been used but Pope (1977 in *Kloet and Hincks: A Check List of British Insects*. 2nd Edition Part 3 Coleoptera and Strepsiptera) states that this is a misspelling. It should be noted that *Atheta sylvicola* Kraatz is to be distinguished from *Atheta silvicola* Fuss, which has long been regarded as a synonym of *A. hypnorum* Kiesenwetter.

The few available observations would seem inadequate to define the habitat of the beetle in Scotland but they are at least in agreement with what is recorded for the species in Sweden by Palm who states (1970 in *Svensk Insektfauna* 9 Coleoptera Fam. Staphylinidae pt. 6 p286) that the beetle occurs in rotten vegetation and fungi and also under stones on sand or gravel banks.

I thank Mr. P. M. Hammond for help in identifying these two specimens. J. A. OWEN, 8 Kingsdown Road, Epsom, Surrey KT17 3PU